

## SENATE—Tuesday, February 27, 2001

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable GEORGE ALLEN, a Senator from the State of Virginia.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths.*—Proverbs 3:5,6.

Gracious God, we put our trust in You. We resist the human tendency to lean on our own understanding; we acknowledge our need for Your wisdom in our search for solutions all of us can support. As an intentional act of will, we commit to You everything we think, say, and do today. Direct our paths as we give precedence to patriotism over party and loyalty to You over anything or anyone else. We need You, Father. Strengthen each one of us and strengthen our oneness. In the name of our Lord. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable GEORGE ALLEN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, February 27, 2001.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable GEORGE ALLEN, a Senator from the State of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. ALLEN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there

will now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak up to 10 minutes each. Under the previous order, the time until 11 a.m. shall be under the control of the Senator from Wyoming, Mr. THOMAS, or his designee.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader, the Senator from Wyoming, is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business throughout the day. At 12:30, the Senate will recess for weekly party conferences to meet. When the Senate reconvenes at 2:15, there will be an additional period of morning business to allow Senators to introduce legislation and to make statements.

By previous consent, when the Senate completes its business this afternoon, it will recess until 8:30 tonight. Senators are reminded to be in the Senate Chamber by 8:30 to proceed as a body at 8:40 this evening to the Hall of the House of Representatives for the President's address.

### THE BUDGET

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, one of the most important things we do in the Senate throughout the year is to put together a budget. The budget, of course, on its face, is how we spend the money. However, it is much more than that. It sets the priorities of the Senate and the Congress and the Government, what the Government will do throughout the year, by adjudicating and allocating these expenditures to certain areas.

In addition, of course, it has to do with the broader issue of what size Government we have, what is the role of the Government, and what is the role of the Federal Government vis-a-vis other governments. So it is one of the most important documents and one of the most important activities we engage in during the entire year.

The President this evening will lay forth his priorities for budgeting, which, of course, will be very important. He will set out the expenditure level for this country. These things all become very important. We are going to hear more about it today.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Utah, Mr. BENNETT.

### THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, tonight we will hear from President Bush as he presents the budget. I remember when I first came to this town as a very young man back in the 1960s, one of my wise mentors commented that every President enjoys a honeymoon, and it lasts until he offers his first budget. Once we get down to the money, the platitudes stop; that is when the honeymoon ends.

I suppose tonight we will see the end of whatever honeymoon President Bush is experiencing as people begin to disagree with his priorities with respect to the money. That is as it should be. We should get away from the generalities and, frankly, the hyperbole of the political campaign and down to the realities of governing as quickly as possible.

I can't help but think back over my first experience as a Member of this body some 8 years ago when President Clinton presented his first budget. I was a brand-new Member of the minority. I had gone through the campaign with President Clinton. He and I had both campaigned on the same thing: Change. He, of course, wanted to change the Presidency; I wanted to change the Congress. He succeeded; I didn't. But I at least got elected back into a Congress where the Republicans were very much in the minority.

In his campaign, President Clinton promised a middle-class tax cut. But when he stood before America on that first occasion and presented his first budget, he said things were so much different once he had gotten into the Presidency than he had thought they were when he was running for the Presidency he had to not only rescind his call for a tax cut but ask for a tax increase.

One of the things I am looking forward to tonight is that President George W. Bush will not change from the position he took in the campaign. He promised he would campaign for a tax cut, for tax relief, and I understand tonight he will, in fact, propose that on which he campaigned—tax relief.

He will propose a number of other things. We will go down them in the standard checklist, laundry list fashion of politicians, and say that is too much for this, that is not enough for that, we are in favor of this, but we want to amend that. And we will go down it as if this is a checklist that is cast in bronze. We will fight over the details.

Again, I have learned that is what goes on around here. In fact, however, if we can step back from that process for a minute, we should realize the